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PLYMOUTH  
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SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 1945

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## Three Thousand Allied Tanks Plunging Ahead

# "TOTAL VICTORY IS VERY NEAR"

## Patton Only 170 Miles From Berlin

From DENIS MARTIN, Reuter's Special Correspondent

**TOTAL VICTORY IS VERY NEAR TONIGHT, AND TOTAL ANNIHILATION OF THE GERMAN FORCES IN THE FIELD IS NOW A CERTAINTY.**

Western and Central Germany, the hard core of the Third Reich, is wide open as Field-Marshal Montgomery's flying columns of tanks and guns, 16 miles further to the east than they were this morning, pound forward through the last remnants of Kesselring's shattered armies.

### German High

### Command Tells Hitler:

## 'All Is Lost, End The War'

**SENSATIONAL** reports came yesterday from both Sweden and Switzerland that at a meeting of Hitler's War Council on Friday the German High Command told him bluntly that they could not continue the fight any longer and that the war was definitely lost.

Here are the reports which were received in London almost simultaneously: "STOCKHOLM: The War Council at Hitler's HQ in a atmosphere of gloom, discussed the situation of the German High Command told Hitler that in the west

German troops were out of the control of their officers. Volksturm units were captured without a fight.

Potential stocks were exhausted and there was not enough food for the troops.

The German Army commanders and they were prepared to negotiate for an armistice if the Nazi Government withdrew.

### Fuehrer's Offer

Hitler replied that he was prepared to give up the position as Commander and form a "Fuehrer's Council," headed by Kesselring, Schuster, and with Hitler, Himmler, Goering and Dönitz as members.

Hitler is reported to have told the generals they could sue for armistice while he and Himmler answered for internal order.

The generals would not accept a proposal, and the final result of the War Council, which lasted on Friday until early morning, was not known.

**ZURICH:** At the end of the War Council even Hitler himself was reported to have said that the situation was so desperate that the only way to deal with the overwhelming Allied onslaught.

He realized that he had played his last card and lost.

The Nazi Party also realized that even the most drastic measures could not cope with the new desperate and defeatist situation which extended to the highest military ranks.

Hitler reports of the War Council said that the general opinion was that the war would end within three weeks.

It would depend mainly on the speed with which the tremendous amount of transport needed to continue the offensive towards Berlin.

All gallies, it was added, were now on route with their families to the Nazi fortresses being prepared in Bavaria.

Meanwhile, Hitler and Co. are reported to have three super-submarine waiting for the Japanese leaders 5,000 miles to Japan.

They were told they were intended for Germany New York. Today the planes are on an air route on the French tableland, conveniently near the Reichstag.

### PROTEST AGAINST FRANCO

Thousands of men and many women took part in a demonstration in the streets of Madrid against the installation of a Francoist government.

This brings the vanguards to a point 66 miles deep into the Reich from the Rhine. The great breakthrough is spreading out in all directions.

Under a screen of security silence, famous British armoured units and men of the airborne units are thrusting deeper and deeper into the North German plain, which all day has been covered by a pall of low cloud. Our forces have overrun many well-known places which cannot yet be named.

But it can be stated here tonight that Field-Marshal Montgomery has kept his word and that his tanks are "cracking about" at least 66 miles behind what was Kesselring's do-or-die "Fatherland" line.

Far to the south-west of the advancing British, the great industrial conglomeration of the devastated Ruhr is isolated from the rest of Germany. To the north the path to the North Sea coast and U-boat bases appears to be thinly held.

To the east the Germans are still fleeing in complete disorder to the lines of the Weser and Elbe. The retreating columns are the last drops of a beaten, demoralised army.

### LAND OF WHITE FLAGS

This is what the mass debate looks like from the air, in the words of a New Zealand pilot who got under the cloud cover today to see what was going on. "From the Rhine for more than 60 miles eastward the entire countryside is covered with white flags," he said.

"Every house in every little village is flying the flag of surrender. Jerry certainly goes the whole hog when he is licked."

**ONLY TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE MAMMOTH BREAKTHROUGH IS GERMAN RESISTANCE CO-ORDINATED AND HEAVY.**

But even the most fanatical of paratroopers can do nothing to prevent great waves of British tanks, guns, men and vehicles flooding eastwards through the great rent in the fabric of Hitler's Reich.

North of Emmerich, Canadian forces are gaining ground and south of the British, Simpson's Ninth U.S. Army are pushing steadily east through the wrecked factories, slag heaps and smokeless chimneys of the northern Ruhr.

Hour by hour came news of growing chaos in Germany. The steel stranglehold closed on the Ruhr with the link-up, near Paderborn, of the army groups of Montgomery and Bradley.

Patton, too, is racing on. Brussels Radio reported that his spearheads are nine miles south of Amberg and only 38 miles from the frontier of Czechoslovakia.

They are now less than 200 miles from Marshal Koniev's forces in Saxony.

(Continued in Back Page)



"THANKS FOR THE MEMORY, MEIN FUHRER!"

### New Breakthrough Into Holland

## DRIVE AGAINST V-2 SITES

From ROSS MUNRO  
Canadians in Northern Holland, Saturday Night.

**CANADIAN** forces are advancing rapidly tonight through Dutch farm country north-east of Emmerich, in an attack which has already outflanked the German Juisser River line running north from Arnhem to the Zuider Zee.

German resistance on this northern flank is hourly weakening, and half-a-dozen Dutch towns were liberated this afternoon as the Canadians rolled north.

Several Canadian units are not meeting any opposition at all, while others are merely bumping into small groups of Germans who fire a few shots and then surrender.

The Black Watch joined in the drive north last night. Civilians say the Germans are clearing out of North Holland west of Arnhem and are pulling back into Germany.

There is a possibility that this sector will have wide open during the weekend and see the Canadian armor and infantry surging north in giant sweeps.

The Canadians have today made advances which, if they are continued, should slash off the V-2 launching sites in North-West Britain from V-2 attacks.

This would be in the nature of a repeat performance for the Canadians, for it was these same Dominion troops who, last September, swept up the French coast to capture the V-1 launching sites and the Calais guns, thus taking pressure off Southern England—Reuter and Canadian Press.

## U.S. SAYS 'NO' TO LUBLIN

**AMERICA** rejects the Soviet request for a seat at the San Francisco Conference for the Lublin Polish Government, the U.S. State Department announced in Washington last night.

A State Department official said it was the hope of the U.S. Government that the formation of a new Polish Provisional Government of National Unity in conformity with the decisions of the Yalta Conference would be completed in time to send a delegation to the San Francisco Conference.

The official, who refused to be quoted direct, added that the U.S. was watching current consultations respecting the formation of such a new government.

It was pointed out that the U.S. was anxious to see the new government organized on a broader democratic basis with the inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad, in accordance with the Crimea agreement—Reuter.

It is understood that the attitude of the British Government follows exactly that of the United States.

## Roosevelt's Man Coming To London

Paris, Saturday.  
Edward Flynn, President Roosevelt's personal representative, will visit London next week on his way back to the United States from Paris.

Before going to Paris on what is described as an "unofficial visit," Mr. Flynn was in Rome, where he saw the Pope—B.U.P.

## British Fleet In Action: Tokyo Fears Landings

**THE** British Pacific Fleet, under Vice-Admiral Sir Bernard Rawlings, and a task force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, are today keeping up a terrific bombardment of the Ryuku Islands, south of the Japanese mainland.

Famous battleships and aircraft carriers are engaged, and the non-stop assault was stated by Tokyo Radio to be the prelude to a spectacular U.S. landing only 320 miles from Japan.

A communiqué issued here today by Admiral Nimitz stated: "On Friday, battleships and light units of the Pacific Fleet shelled shore installations on Okinawa (principal island of the southern Ryukus) heavily at close range."

"The sea walls were breached by gunfire, and defenses, gun positions, bridges and airfields were heavily hit."

"Carrier aircraft and heavy units of the Fleet continued the attacks on Okinawa today."

"A carrier task force of the British Pacific Fleet today struck targets in the Sakishima group (Ryuku islands 180 miles south-west of Okinawa)."

Admiral Nimitz's announcement also stated that, on Wednesday and Thursday 46 Japanese ships were sunk or damaged around the Ryukus and Kishan, the most southern island of Japan proper.

The unprecedented bombardment of the islands from sea and air has now been sustained for nine days and is interpreted by reports of an Allied aircraft assault on the islands is imminent.

"Missesweepers," said Tokyo, "are preparing the way for the landings."

"Fifteen battleships and other large warships have joined 130 surface craft already on the scene."

"A powerful transport armada which is following closely behind surpasses anyone's previous experience."

It was added that the armada was being furiously attacked.

Another Japanese report says: "Naval forces of unprecedented strength have been concentrated in the waters of Okinawa. They include the most modern British units and more than 10 large aircraft carriers."

"Super-Fortresses are backing up the Allied task forces by striking at airfields on the Japanese mainland."

U.S. forces of the British Pacific Fleet are in action has not been revealed, but there are indications that the battleship King George V, the carrier Illustrious and other big units have been consistently engaged for the past three days—Reuter.

## Nazis Told How To Surrender

London, Saturday.  
The German High Command had created to exercise effective control over many units, large and small, of the German forces.

In these circumstances, in order to avoid further unnecessary bloodshed and sacrifice of human life, he issued instructions to the German armies on how they should surrender.

It is an interesting sight to see this fading, once-powerful army demoralized and second-hand all about defeated.

Yet still there is not a trace of any feeling of guilt in the Germans. Their attitude is "It's all in the past—yes, we're lost. We're lost. Let's forget all about it."

Already in the minds of some prisoners I have talked to were plans for forming a new force to meet the world series—Reuter.

## RUSSIANS CLOSE IN ON AUSTRIA

From DUNCAN HOOPER, Reuter's Special Correspondent

**M**ASSIVE Soviet armies, with their vanguards deep into Austria, are today closing in along a 250-mile front on the eastern wall of Hitler's mountain stronghold.

They are moving irresistibly towards a link-up with Gen. Patton's troops, driving from the west, to cut in two the Nazi forces in Central Europe.

A Stalin Order of the Day tonight announced the capture of Raiborn, on the Oder, six miles from the northern Czech frontier, and Biesitz, 17 miles west of Raiborn.

These successes by the army of Marshal Koniev clear the way for a drive through the Czech frontier towards the Czechoslovakian by way of the Moravian Gap.

A second Order of the Day announced important gains on the Austro-Hungarian border due east of Graz.

Towns captured by Marshal Tolbukhin in this thrust were Vasvar, 15 miles from the Austrian border; Kormend, three miles from the border and 71 miles south of Vienna, and Szent Gotthard, 10 miles south-east of Graz and two miles from Austria.

South of Lake Balaton, the Order of the Day adds, Bulgarian troops stormed the town of Zagreb and only five miles from Yugoslavia.

The Bulgarians, now less than 150 miles from Trieste, are driving to cut right across the feeder lines for the Germans in Italy and Yugoslavia.

## Clocks On Tonight

**CLOCKS** and watches must be put forward one hour before you go to bed tonight. Double Summer Time comes into force at 1 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time tomorrow.

The clock, now one hour in advance of Greenwich Mean Time, will from tomorrow until Sunday, July 15, be two hours in advance.

## HUN NAVY BOLTS

Three German destroyers and 20 smaller naval vessels have broken through the German barrier in the last 24 hours from Danzig and Gdynia, says a Swedish newspaper—Expressen.

## Where's my BOURNVILLE COCOA?

Cadbury quality—and no points





















